

The Caledonian.

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RUSSIAN FRUIT TREES.

That Dr. Hoskins Thinks About Their Adaptability to Vermont.

In a long and interesting article in regard to Russian Pears, etc., in the rural Vermont, written in response to an inquiry of a Caledonia county reader, Dr. Hoskins tells what he knows in regard to the pears of northeastern Europe, trees and cions of which were brought to this country, along with those of many new kinds of apples, plums, cherries, and other valuable trees and plants, in 1883, when Prof. Joseph L. Budd and Charles Gibbs started on a pomological trip to northeastern Europe in company. Their chief object was to study the fruits of that region, which are almost entirely unknown to the rest of the world.

It seems that when the cold North-

west began to be settled, the pioneers

not discovered, in Iowa and Minne-

sota, that the common apples of the

west would not endure the winters

here. During a series of moderate

winters, the planted orchards might at-

tain considerable growth, and even be-

come productive of fruit; but one of

the years now call the "test winters,"

and every orchard in the west, in the

late. In the midst of these disasters,

it was noticed that the Russian ap-

ples, introduced in this country 40 years

ago, survived the trial, and remained

unimpaired monuments in the midst of

widespread ruin. This led the Minne-

sota pomological society to ask the

general government to import a collec-

tion of the best apples of Russia. This

has been done. In the fall of 1883, young

trees and cions of nearly two hundred

varieties were received, and distrib-

uted through the country by the depart-

ment of agriculture, but these were

not to Tom, Dick and Harry, North

and South, without cause or system,

and of placing them at the disposal

of the organized societies through

those request they were imported.

The consequence of this was, that fully

two-thirds of the trees were practically

lost, but among those which "fell upon

good ground," enough were found to

prove the great wisdom of the original

application. This experience led to the

rather investigation involved in the

expedition of Messrs. Budd and Gibbs,

though has been learned to prove that

apples of the very best quality in their

season were to be had in Russia, and

the needs of so large a section of

America for just such trees, gave a

powerful stimulus to the desire for a

study of the subject. Messrs. Budd

and Gibbs returned with a full

collection, not only of apples, but also

of other tree fruits, and for the pur-

pose of making collections of many valuable

and ornamental trees and shrubs not her-

etofore known in America.

As the Russian pears are of

Dr. Hoskins says: We have on trial

about a dozen kinds. It is very prob-

able that the two best kinds, accord-

ing to their report, are proving very

valuable. All of them, with possible

exception of two, are harder than the

earliest pears hitherto known in

America, and can be grown in nine-

tenths of Vermont, New Hampshire

and Maine, if not in the whole of the

northern part of which we have given

the longest trial, and which seem the most

successful, are Bessemerianka and Sa-

pieganika. The first is a fine, free,

upright grower, the young trees look-

ing almost like young Lombardy pop-

lars, and some of them are already nearly

eight feet in height. The two oldest

winters we have ever seen, 1884-5 and

1886-7, did not seem to hurt them. The

Bessemerianka is a particle, and only slightly

rippled a few of the others. The same

winters killed to the ground line all

about ten (or twelve) of the hardiest

previously known pears on our place.

The first of these winters killing trees

is six or eight years old, and the last one

all the sprouts that came up from

them. Saieganika is the reverse of

Bessemerianka in its habit of growth,

being a low-branched and irregular

grower, but it can be made tolerably

prightly by proper pruning and stak-

ing. We suspect, however, that this

variety would do best top-grafted upon

mountain ash, upon which most

pears succeed quite well, and bear

long.

As to quality, the Russian pears

are not borne in America, and we

have no information other than that

given by the gentleman who imported

them. Mr. Gibbs was sharply inter-

rogated on this point at the Boston

meeting of the American pomological

society in September last, which we at-

tended. Mr. Gibbs is well known to us,

and we know him to be very cautious

and guarded in all his statements about

new fruits. He seems to have no en-

thusiasm, and upon matters about

which we have both been familiar, we

have found him understanding rather

than overrating the facts. Some have

said that the Bessemerianka is as good

as the Finnish Beauty. When questioned

on this, Mr. Gibbs would not quite agree

to it. He said it was a smaller pear,

not buttery or melting, but rather of

the Bergamot type,—very good to eat,

juicy and sufficiently soft and good

flavored.—"A great deal better than

to bear at all," Mr. Heinrich Goegginger

of Riga, Russia, says of this pear: "It

is of medium size, color, glass green,

at maturity yellowish green, and later

greenish yellow; flesh yellowish white,

very juicy, similar in taste to a fine

melon a very good market and table

fruit. Season, September. The tree

grows to a very large size; it grows

quickly and bears well." According

to the same authority, the Saieganika

is also of the Bergamot type, and

might be mistaken for the summer

Bergamot. As Vilny, Russia, Budd

and Gibbs saw perfectly healthy trees

over forty years old, "loaded with

perfect fruit as we ever saw in any

country," Mr. Budd says: "Though

not as large, it is of the same quality

as the Finnish Beauty. When ripe it is

light yellow, with a red cheek; season,

September."

In reply to questions by his Caledo-

nia correspondent the Dr. says that

has none of the trees for sale but

that he cut a few cions from the largest

tree of the two varieties he has and

he can get suitable stocks, shall try

to propagate them next spring. One

thing the public may be assured of—

they are not in anybody's hands for

speculative purposes—and on that ac-

count are not very likely to be "boom-

ed."

How to Manage a Hog.

A. C. Niles in Hornet.

I will tell you how a Vermont but-

cher loads a live hog without lifting him.

He backs his wagon up to the pen,

places two planks side by side, with

one end in the wagon and the other on

the ground, making an inclined plane.

Then the hog is turned with his tail

toward the wagon, a basket put over

his head, and as he steps back to get

his head out he is followed up, care

being taken that he does not step over

the side, and to his surprise he will

find himself in the wagon without a

struggle.

Blanketing Horses.

Agricultural Editor Tinkman oppo-

ses blanketing horses in winter. He

states the case thus in the Watchman:

As winter again approaches again will

come up the question (to the man who

owns one), Shall I blanket my horse

in the barn? We decided that ques-

tion in the negative for ourself years

ago. We are confirmed in our deci-

sion by pretty good authority—good

horses and keeps them well and

healthy in the Adams Express com-

pany. The company is represented

by the New York Voice as having

learned by experience with their

horses, which are out in all kinds of

weather, that blanketing does them

more harm than good. Too much cod-

dling enervate animals of all kinds, human

included, as we may see daily.

What Mothers Say.

Woman Magazine.

As the boys grow up make com-

panions of them; then they will not

seek companionship.

Let the children make a noise some-

times; their happiness is as important

as your nerves.

Remember that without physical

health mental attainment is worthless;

let them lead free, happy lives, which

will strengthen both mind and body.

Bear in mind that you are largely

responsible for your child's develop-

ment, and have patience with

faults and failings.

Talk hopefully to your children of

life and its possibilities; you have no

right to depress them because you

have suffered.

Teach boys and girls the actual facts

of life as soon as they are old enough

to understand them, and give them

the sense of responsibility without sad-

dening them.

Find out what their special tastes

are and develop them, instead of spend-

ing time, money and patience in forc-

ing them into studies that are repug-

nant to them.

As long as it is possible, kiss them

good night after they are in bed; they

do like it so, and it keeps them very

close.

If you have lost a child, remember

that for the one that is gone there is

no more to do; for those remaining,

everything; hide your grief for their

sakes.

Impress upon them from early infan-

cy that actions have results, and that

they cannot escape consequences even

by being sorry when they have acted

wrongly.

The Legend of the Two Sacks.

There is an ancient legend that tells

of an old man who was in the habit of

travelling from place to place, with a

sack hanging behind his back and an-

other in front of him.

What do you think these sacks were

for? "Well, I will tell you."

In the one behind him he tossed all

the kind deeds of his friends, where

they were quite hid from view; and he

soon forgot all about them.

In the one hanging round his neck,

under his chin, he popped all the sins

which the people he knew committed;

and these he was in the habit of turn-

ing over and looking at as he walked

along, day by day.

One day, to his surprise, he met a

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